



# Lewis, Clark & the Corp of Discovery



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary

1. Expedition
  2. Louisiana Purchase
  3. Louisiana Territory
  4. Continental Divide
  5. Northwest Passage
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## Lewis & Clark

- I. In 1803, after purchasing Louisiana, Congress gave Jefferson money to send explorers on an expedition to study the Louisiana territory.
  - a. Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis to lead the expedition.
  - b. Lewis chose friend William Clark to be co-captain.
  - c. Together, Lewis and Clark were challenged with doing the following:
    - i. Map a route to the Pacific
    - ii. Find an all water route if possible
    - iii. Study and record the weather, geography, plant and animal life of the west.
    - iv. Learn about the Native Americans living west of Mississippi.
- II. The Corp of Discovery
  - a. Consisted of:
    - i. Lewis & Clark
    - ii. 33 enlisted men
    - iii. 1 slave
    - iv. Several Native American guides
    - v. 1 Dog
- III. The Journey was divided into two parts: the journey west and the return trip home.

a. The Journey West

- i. May 1804, after a year of preparation, the Corp of Discovery left from St. Lewis.
- ii. During the summer of 1804 the expedition crossed the Great Plains.
  1. While on the Great Plains, the expedition experienced its only fatality. Sgt. Charles Floyd died of appendicitis.
- iii. The expedition spent the winter of 1804-1805 in North Dakota at Fort Mandan.
  1. Named after Mandan Indians
  2. Picked up a guide named Toussaint Charbonneau
    - a. Charbonneau brought one of his two wives named Sacagawea to act as an interpreter.
    - b. Sacagawea brought her infant son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.
  3. While at Mandan, maps and specimens were sent back to Jefferson.
- iv. In the spring of 1805, the expedition set out to cross the Rocky Mountains.
  1. In the Rockies, Lewis & Clark crossed the Continental Divide.
  2. The Continental Divide proved that there was no all water route west

v. November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1805, the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean.

vi. The expedition spent the winter of 1805-1806 at Fort Clatsop in Oregon.

b. The Return Trip Home

i. The return trip to St. Louis took another year

1. The trip was much faster because the expedition was traveling downstream.

ii. The expedition returned home in September of 1806

IV. Effects of Lewis & Clark's Journey

a. Mapped much of the Northwest

b. Led to the discovery of over 300 new animal and plant species

c. Inspired many Americans and lead to western settlement and trade

d. Led to tragedy for Native Americans